

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR submission on the purpose, content and structure of the local communities and indigenous people's platform, referred to in decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 135.

UNHCR recommends that the **content** of the platform consider the role that planned relocations may play for local communities and indigenous peoples. In reaction or in anticipation of climate change impacts, many governments, local communities and indigenous peoples are contemplating and implementing measures to move vulnerable populations out of harm's way.

However, if not planned properly, relocation processes carry serious risks for those it intends to benefit, and must be undertaken in full consultation and with respect for the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples.

Planned Relocation should be carried out within a rights-based framework that safeguards both individual and collective civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of relocated persons and other affected persons throughout all phases.

The rights to self-determination, preservation of identity and culture, and control of land and resources are important, particularly for indigenous communities. For further information, refer to UNHCR, Georgetown University, and Brookings Institution Guidance on Planned Relocation at : <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/protection/environment/562f798d9/planned-relocation-guidance-october-2015.html>